

Australian Natural History Medallion 2011

John CZ Woinarski

The 2011 Australian Natural History Medallion has been awarded to Professor John Woinarski, for his contribution to conservation biology. John was nominated by the Northern Territory Field Naturalists Club Inc.

John's training is in zoology, undertaken at Monash University, with a PhD on the ecology and conservation of small birds. Since leaving Victoria in 1986, he has devoted almost 25 years to wildlife research in the Northern Territory. Up to mid-2010, he was the Director of the Biodiversity Division in NT's Department of Natural Resources, Environment, the Arts and Sport (NRETAS). John was also a project leader in the Tropical Savannas Co-operative Research Centre throughout its lifetime, and is now a Professor at Charles Darwin University's Research Institute of the Environment and Livelihoods. After nearly half a lifetime in the Northern Territory, John has recently moved to Christmas Island, where he is happily pursuing a range of biodiversity conservation interests.

John is recognised internationally as an authority on the ecology of northern Australia. He has conducted research on a very wide range of conservation and management issues in that area, and complemented that interest with substantial involvement in environmental management and policy. Recent research projects include: the impacts upon biodiversity of a range of land management and other factors in northern savannas; native mammal decline in northern Australia; bioregional inventory and identification of conservation assets; and island arks, involving the translocation of Northern Quolls to offshore islands.

John played a leading role in the development of protocols for rigorous and explicitly quantitative wildlife surveys, which are now employed as standard practice within the Northern Territory and, increasingly, elsewhere in northern Australia. At the Biodiversity Division of NRE-

TAS he led an active research unit that examines options for biodiversity conservation on Aboriginal lands and on pastoral lands, and he undertakes biodiversity monitoring, bioregional survey and conservation planning.

This has led to a long involvement with Kakadu National Park, one of the largest terrestrial national parks in Australia. He was involved in the fauna surveys for stage III of the Park, and has played an ongoing and integral role in the Park since then, through his involvement with the Kakadu Research Advisory Committee.

John's work has been recognised previously with the Eureka Prize for biodiversity research (2001), the Serventy Medal for life-time contribution to Australian ornithology (2001), the Northern Territory Tropical Knowledge Research and Innovation Award (2008), and the Northern Territory Chief Minister's Award for Research and Innovation (2008).

John has been active on a wide range of national committees, currently including the Threatened Species Scientific Committee, which provides advice to the Australian Minister for the Environment.

John has published about 200 scientific publications, including five books, 30 chapters in books and 150 peer-reviewed scientific papers. The majority of this work has focused on the ecology, biogeography and management of mammals and birds, but his written output also includes a broad range of other subjects such as invertebrates, reptiles, plants, reserve design, fragmentation, forestry, biodiversity monitoring, and island biogeography. He was lead author of *The Nature of Northern Australia* (2007, ANU e-press, Canberra), the seminal work on the biodiversity and ecology of the area. Among his shorter publications are a number of papers in *Northern Territory Naturalist*, the journal of the Northern Territory Field Naturalists Club, of which John has been a long-standing member.



Professor Woinarski was presented with the Medallion by Professor Lynne Selwood, President of the Royal Society of Victoria, on 7 November 2011.

Gary Presland
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Photo by Joan Broadberry.

Australian Natural History Medallion Trust Fund

The following donations were gratefully received since the last published list (17 December 2010):

	\$
Helen Handreck	10.00
Kenneth Simpson	25.00
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Alan Reid	10.00
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Launceston Field Naturalists Club	50.00
Northern Territory Field Naturalists Club Inc.	50.00
Kaye Proudley	8.00
SEANA (Sponsorship)	500.00
Sylvia Buchanan	10.00
Dr Aaron Floyed	10.00

Donations to this ANHM Trust Fund, which supports the Australian Natural History Medallion, should be sent to: The Treasurer, Field Naturalists Club of Victoria, Locked Bag 3, Blackburn, Victoria 3130. Cheques should be made payable to the 'Australian Natural History Medallion Trust Fund'.

The medallion is awarded annually to a person considered to have made a significant contribution to the understanding of Australian natural history in the last ten years.

Gary Presland
Secretary
ANHM Committee